DARK HORSE COMICS

#2

CECIL CASTELLUCCI

MEGAN HUANG

STAR WARS™

HYPERSPACE STORIES

TIE FIGHTERS! WHAT ARE THEY DOING HERE?

WE MUST HAVE STUMBLED UPON A SECRET IMPERIAL BASE!

Disney

STAR WARS™

HYPERSPACE STORIES

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Star Wars Hyperspace Stories #2, September 2022. Published by Dark Horse Comics LLC, 10956 SE Main Street, Milwaukie, Oregon 97222.

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THE REBEL FLEET

YOU HAVE A CLEAR PATH TO *BANAS.* NO *IMPERIAL* SHIPS DETECTED IN THE VICINITY. SHOULD BE A SMOOTH RIDE, *COMMANDER SKYWALKER.*

COME BACK TO US *SAFELY.*

I WON'T LET *ANYTHING* HAPPEN TO *LEIA.* WE'LL SEE YOU *SOON.*

MAY *THE FORCE* BE WITH YOU *BOTH.*

I KNOW MY WAY AROUND A *BLASTER* AND CAN TAKE CARE OF *MYSELF.*

NO ONE *DOUBTS* THAT, LEIA.

THEY'RE TOO *OVERPROTECTIVE,* LUKE.

WITH GOOD REASON. WE *NEED* YOU.

BANAS. NOTHING MORE THAN A *PIT STOP* FOR SHORT-HAUL SHIPS IN THIS OUTER RIM SYSTEM.

LOOKS LIKE A PLACE THAT TIME *FORGOT.*

LOOKS ABOUT AS EXCITING AS BACK HOME ON *TATOOINE.*

THE OTHER PLANETS IN THE SYSTEM ARE WHERE MOST OF THE POPULATION LIVES.

THIS LAUNCH PAD IS FOR SMALL SHIPS TO FUEL UP AND GRAB BASIC SUPPLIES.

WHICH MAKES IT A *PERFECT* PLACE FOR US TO SET UP A *MONITORING OUTPOST.*

I WANT TO COUNT THE NUMBER OF SHORT-RANGE *IMPERIAL SHIPS* THAT SUPPLY UP HERE.

IF THE NUMBERS GO UP, WE'LL KNOW IF THE EMPIRE IS AMASSING IN THIS AREA OF THE *OUTER RIM.*

AND OUR FLEET WILL KNOW TO *AVOID* THIS SECTOR. OR TO *ATTACK IT.*

IT'S ANOTHER WAY TO KEEP US *SAFE.*

WE'VE GOT A FAULTY *INJECTOR COIL.* WE'RE JUST LOOKING FOR PARTS.

THAT WHICH YOU SEEK IS *THERE.*

ARE THERE *MECHANICS* IN TOWN?

THERE.

NOT MUCH OF A TOWN. IT'S GOING TO BE *IMPOSSIBLE* TO FIND SOMEONE SYMPATHETIC TO *THE CAUSE* HERE.

THAT'S WHAT *I'M* HERE FOR. THE *DIPLOMATIC* TOUCH. AND THERE'S ALWAYS *SOMEONE.*

NEVER LOSE *HOPE,* LUKE.

BESIDES, WE JUST NEED SOMEONE WITH A *DATAPAD* AND *BINOCULARS.* IT'S ALWAYS BETTER TO HAVE A LOCAL, BUT WORST CASE WE CAN INSTALL SOMEONE.

WE'LL FIND OUT. *GOSSIP* IS SURE TO MOVE FAST IN A PLACE LIKE *THIS.*

WONDER WHAT THAT'S ALL ABOUT?

WHAT ARE *THOSE?*

LOOKS LIKE SOME KIND OF *ORE.* I DON'T RECOGNIZE IT. THIS PLANET WAS *STRIP-MINED* CENTURIES AGO.

IT'S PROBABLY NOTHING OF VALUE TO *US.*

I DIDN'T SEE ANY *IMPERIAL SHIPS* WHEN WE LANDED. WHAT ARE *THEY* DOING HERE?

MAYBE WHATEVER THAT *ORE* IS, IT'S OF VALUE TO *THEM?*

THAT WAS *TOO* CLOSE. AT LEAST THERE'S ONLY *TWO* OF THEM.

LOOK AGAIN. WE'VE LANDED INTO *REAL TROUBLE.*

THEY HAVE A *WHOLE OPERATION* HERE. THE STORMS HID THEM FROM *ABOVE?!*

SOMETHING MUST HAVE CHANGED IN THIS *SECTOR.* OUR *INTEL* MUST BE *FAULTY.*

THEY'VE *FOUND* SOMETHING. MAYBE A *BIG LODE.*

BLAST! I WAS HOPING THIS WAS A PLANET *OUR* FLEET COULD USE.

AT LEAST THEY DIDN'T SEE *US.* WE NEED TO GET *OFF WORLD* AND MARK IT AS A SYSTEM TO *STEER CLEAR* OF.

THAT'S GOING TO BE HARDER THAN WE THINK. LOOK.

THEY'LL WANT TO *QUESTION* US. NOT MANY PLACES TO HIDE FOR *STRANGERS* IN A TOWN THIS SMALL.

WE NEED A SAFE PLACE TO *RETHINK* OUR STRATEGY. SEE IF WE CAN FIGURE OUT WHAT THEIR INTEREST IS.

COME ON. WE CAN GET LOST *THERE* UNTIL WE FIND SOMEWHERE *BETTER.*

I USED TO GET LOST IN PLACES LIKE THIS BACK HOME LOOKING FOR SPARE PARTS TO KEEP THE *MOISTURE FARM* RUNNING.

DING DING DING

ITEM? LOST OR FOUND?

WE'RE BROWSING.

HMMMMM... ONLY *THIS* ROW IS FOR SALE.

IF YOU *BREAK* IT, YOU *BUY* IT.

NO REFUNDS. NO EXCHANGES. NO TROUBLE.

WE CAN TRY WAITING TILL *DARK* TO HEAD BACK TO THE SHIP.

THAT *SHOPKEEPER* IS WATCHING US LIKE WE'RE GOING TO *STEAL* SOMETHING. SHE WON'T LET US STAY *THAT* LONG.

I HAD A *SIMILAR* DOLL WHEN I WAS A CHILD. ONE OF MY *FAVORITE* THINGS.

I REMEMBER MEETING A *WOOKIEE* WHEN I WAS A CHILD WHO WAS A GUEST OF *MY FATHER'S* AT A STATE DINNER. HE MADE QUITE THE *IMPRESSION.*

IT'S LITTLE THINGS LIKE THIS THAT REMIND ME OF HOME. OF *ALDERAAN.*

COME ON, LEIA. WE'VE GOTTA STAY *FOCUSED.* WE GOTTA COME UP WITH A *PLAN.*

ISN'T THAT WHAT WE'RE *FIGHTING* FOR? TO *REMEMBER* HOME. TO *CHERISH,* GIVE *HOPE* AND *HONOR* TO THOSE THAT WE'VE *LOVED AND LOST?*

IF NOT, THEN *WHAT* IS THIS WAR FOR, *LUKE?*

I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW WHAT *WOOKIEES* LOOKED LIKE WHEN I WAS A BOY. ALL OF THIS SEEMED SO *FAR AWAY.*

NOW YOU'RE IN THE *THICK* OF IT AND A *WOOKIEE* IS PRACTICALLY YOUR *CLOSEST* FRIEND. FUNNY WHAT LIFE THROWS AT YOU.

DING DING DING

OUT! NO *CHILDREN* IN HERE WITH THEIR *STICKY* HANDS! LOWERS THE VALUE OF MY *WARES.*

PLEASE. HAVE A *HEART.* THE *SNOWTROOPERS* ARE DOING A SWEEP AND I DON'T HAVE *SCAN-DOCS.*

WHAT ARE THEY LOOKING FOR?

THEY'RE BOARDING NEWLY LANDED SHIPS, CHECKING ***MANIFESTS, TRANSPONDER CODES, PASSENGERS.*** THE ***CAPTAIN*** TOLD ME TO MAKE MYSELF ***SCARCE.***

=CRYING=

I DON'T WANT SNOWTROOPERS IN ***HERE.*** THEY ***NEVER*** PAY!

THEY'RE MAKING THEIR WAY ***HERE.*** IS THERE A ***BACK*** EXIT? WE HAVE TO ***GO.***

FOR THE ***TOY,*** YOUR HELP... AND YOUR ***SILENCE.***

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE? WHY ARE YOU HERE?

WE'VE DONE *NOTHING.* YOU *DIDN'T* SEE US. WE'RE JUST PASSING THROUGH LIKE ANY VISITOR HERE.

I DON'T WANT *TROUBLE.* I'M A *NEUTRAL* PARTY. WHO *ARE* YOU?

WE'RE *FRIENDS.*

THE BACK DOOR IS BLOCKED BY *JUNK.* THERE'S NO *TIME.* COME WITH *ME.*

EVEN *THEIR* SCANS CAN'T PENETRATE THESE *HIDES* AND *CARPETS.* THEY'RE *CLEAN,* BUT BE WARNED, THE *ODOR* IS *OVERWHELMING.*

THANK YOU.

WE'RE LOOKING FOR THE OWNERS OF AN *UNKNOWN* SHIP ON THE MAIN LAUNCH PAD. HAVE YOU SEEN *TWO HUMANS?*

I SEE *YOU. YOU* ARE *HUMANS.*

WHAT ABOUT *HER?* WHO IS *SHE?*

THAT'S MY *SISTER-IN-LAW* AND HER *UGLY* BABY. CAN YOU BELIEVE SHE BROUGHT HER *CHILD* HERE? *UNSANITARY!*

PLEASE TAKE HER *AWAY* IF YOU LIKE.

SEARCH THE STORE.

HEY. YOU *BREAK* IT, YOU *BUY* IT. THAT'S THE *LAW.*

THIS PLANET IS NOW UNDER *IMPERIAL* PROTECTION AND THEREFORE YOU FOLLOW *OUR* LAWS.

AND WHAT'S *YOURS* IS *OURS.*

THESE ARE *FRESH* PELTS. STILL *DRYING.* HOW WILL I PAY FOR *CLEANUP* IF YOU *DAMAGE* THEM FURTHER? I'LL BE *RUINED!*

NOT MY CONCERN *UNLESS* YOU COOPERATE.

I DON'T TAKE *SIDES.*

NOT TAKING A SIDE *IS* TAKING A SIDE.

FINE. WHAT DO I CARE? THE HUMANS PAID ME OFF, BUT I OWE THEM *NOTHING.* THEY WENT *WEST.*

IT'S THE ONLY *EASY* WALK FROM HERE. THE ONLY WAY FOR THEM *OFF WORLD.*

YOU ARE A *TRUE* FRIEND TO THE *EMPIRE.*

LATER

I DON'T LIKE *BULLIES.* THE *EMPIRE* ARE *BULLIES.*

THEY'LL DISCOVER SOON ENOUGH YOU'RE *NOT* HEADING WEST. THIS TOWN WILL *PAY.* I WILL *PAY.*

WE WON'T LET THAT HAPPEN.

WE CAN'T GO BACK TO OUR SHIP, AND WE NEED TO GET OFF PLANET. WE'LL GO *EAST.*

TRUE, THERE'S A SMALL LAUNCH PAD THERE. BUT THE ONLY PATH OUT OF *THIS RANGE* IS *WEST.* I BOUGHT YOU TIME, NOT A *SOLUTION.*

WHY CAN'T WE GET TO IT BY GOING *EAST?*

A NEAR *IMPOSSIBLE* TREK. FEW HAVE MADE IT. YOU'LL LIKELY *DIE.*

WE HAVE TO *TRY.* THERE'S SO MUCH AT STAKE. WILL YOU SHOW US THE WAY?

I WON'T PUT MYSELF IN MORE *DANGER.* BUT YOU'VE PAID ENOUGH FOR ME TO KEEP THIS *CHILD* SAFE. I'LL HELP YOU IN YOUR *FOLLY.*

WE'RE *INDEBTED* TO YOU...I DON'T KNOW YOUR *NAME.*

HALORUM. AND I DON'T KNOW THAT I'M HELPING YOU *LIVE* OR SENDING YOU TO YOUR *DEATHS.*

WE HAVE TO TAKE THAT *CHANCE.*

SPEAK TO MY COUSIN *MOULAR* AT THE LAUNCH PAD ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THIS MOUNTAIN RANGE. HE MAY BE *PERSUADED* TO HELP YOU.

I KNOW WHO YOU ARE. IF YOU REALLY WANT TO PAY ME BACK, IF YOU LIVE, GET RID OF THEM.

WE COULD USE SOMEONE LIKE YOU ON OUR SIDE. IF YOU CHANGE YOUR MIND ABOUT HELPING US, WE CAN BE CONTACTED--

I WON'T. I DON'T TAKE SIDES. I WILL HELP BY KEEPING THAT MOTHER AND CHILD SAFE.

I RESPECT YOUR CHOICE.

WE SHOULD GO NOW BEFORE WE LOSE TOO MUCH DAYLIGHT.

"HEAD STRAIGHT OVER THE MOUNTAIN, KEEP THE SUN AT YOUR BACK UNTIL YOU DESCEND AND HIT THE **WIDE WASTE** IN A FEW DAYS.

"IT'S TWO DAYS' WALK FROM THERE TO A LAUNCH SITE.

"WALK THE WASTE AT NIGHT. BEWARE THE PREDATORS. FOLLOW THE BRIGHTEST STAR."

THESE *FURS* DON'T HELP ALL THAT MUCH. MAYBE YOU COULD USE *THE FORCE* TO WARM US UP.

I DON'T THINK IT WORKS LIKE THAT.

I KNOW. I'M JUST *COLD.*

I HOPE I'M NEVER SOMEWHERE THIS COLD AGAIN.

YOU LOOK LIKE A *WOOKIEE.* TELL ME MORE ABOUT THAT *DOLL.* THAT SOUNDED LIKE A WARM *MEMORY.*

MY *FATHER* GOT IT FOR ME. IT KEPT WATCH OVER ME IN MY ROOM. A SORT OF LITTLE *GUARDIAN.*

TELL ME SOMETHING ABOUT *TATOOINE.*

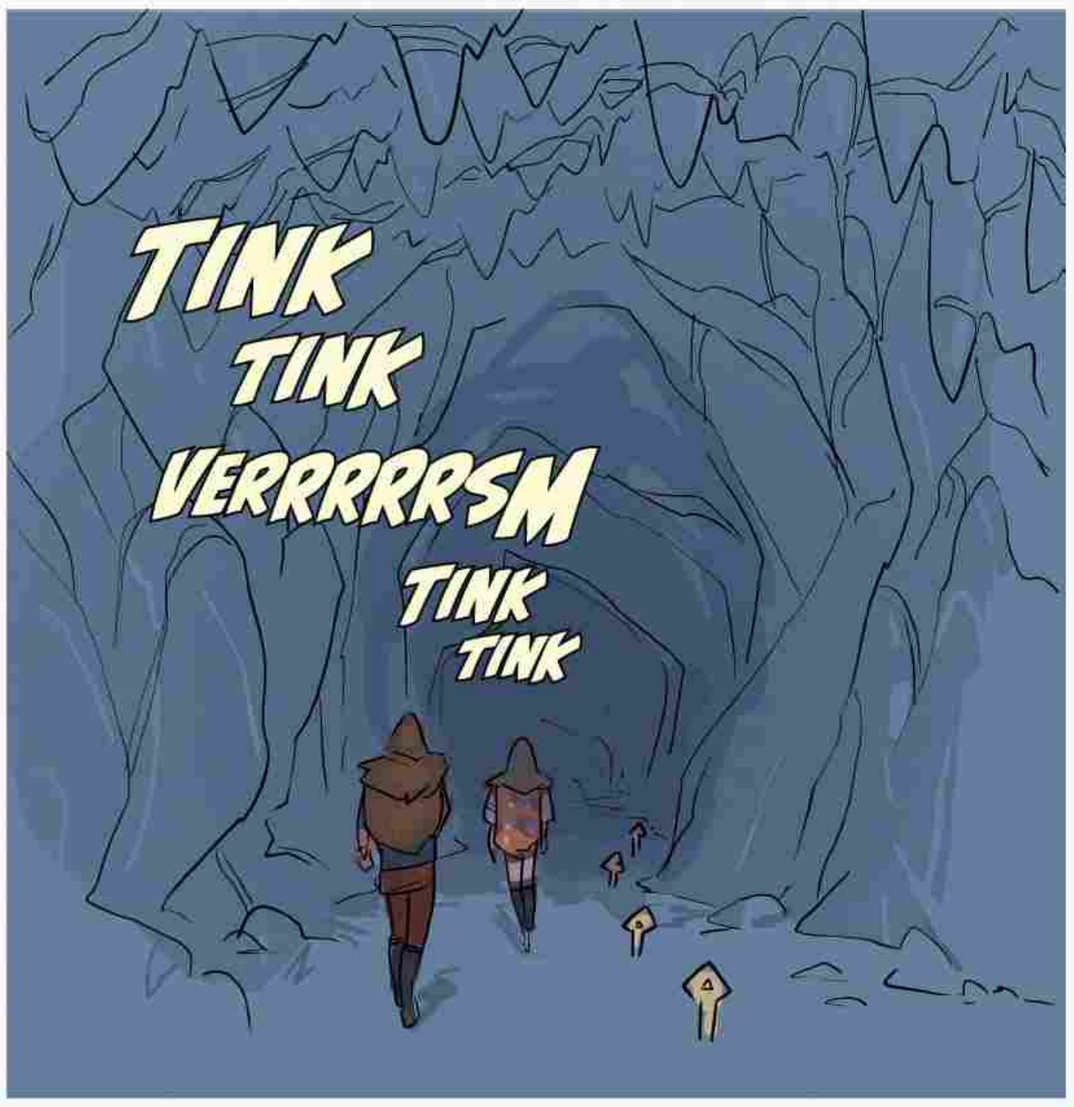
TWIN SUNS. *HOTTEST* KIND OF DRY HEAT.

KEEP TALKING. I CAN *ALMOST* FEEL IT.

VWEEEEWMMM

WHAT ARE *THEY* DOING OUT THIS FAR FROM THE TOWN?
LOOKING FOR *US.*
LOOK! THERE'S A *MARKER!* FOLLOW THE *TRAIL.* THERE'S MORE TO THIS PLANET THAN WE THINK.

DO YOU HEAR *THAT?*
SOMETHING UP AHEAD.


TINK
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TINK

IT'S A *MINING* OPERATION. THIS IS NO FLY-BY-NIGHT THING. THEY'RE *ENTRENCHED.*

WE *NEED* TO KNOW WHAT THEY ARE *USING* IT FOR.

IF I CAN GET *CLOSER,* I MIGHT GET A BETTER LOOK AT THOSE *PLANS.*

CAREFUL!

THEY'RE USING THIS ORE AS A RESOURCE TO *MINIATURIZE MAGNETS* AND *COMPONENTS.*

IT'LL GIVE THEIR FLEET A *SLIGHT* ADVANTAGE.

WE HAVE TO MAKE IT *OUT OF HERE.* WE HAVE TO LET OUR PEOPLE KNOW SO WE CAN *COUNTER* THEIR *ADVANTAGE!*

THERE! AFTER THEM!

PEW

PEW

PEW

PEW

IT'S PRINCESS LEIA!

SHE'S HERE. RIGHT WITHIN MY GRASP!

SHE'S MORE PRECIOUS A FIND THAN THESE RARE ELEMENTS! CAPTURE HER AND I'M SURE TO GET PROMOTED.

YOU THINKING WHAT I'M THINKING?

THAT ONE OF US NEEDS TO MAKE IT OUT OF HERE?

ON THREE, WE GO IN DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS.

GOOD LUCK, LUKE.

I'LL SEE YOU AT THE *LAUNCH PAD!*

NOT IF I SEE YOU *FIRST!*

MAY THE FORCE BE WITH YOU.

WE HAVE TO *RETREAT!*

WE *HAD* THEM! *GLORY* WAS WITHIN OUR GRASP! WE COULD HAVE ALL BEEN *HEROES* TO THE *EMPIRE!*

THIS *MUST* BE IT.

HALORUM SAID TO EXPECT *PEOPLE* COMING OUT FROM THE WASTE. I DIDN'T *BELIEVE* HER.

I *KNOW* WHO YOU ARE. THERE ARE *ALERTS* PLANET-WIDE TO TURN YOU IN TO *COMMODORE KURTRUK.*

I COME TO YOU IN *FRIENDSHIP* AND IN NEED OF A *SHIP.* I HAVE *VITAL INFORMATION* THAT I NEED TO BRING TO MY PEOPLE.

I WILL HELP YOU WITH A SHIP, AND IN RETURN YOU WILL HELP *MY PLANET.* MY COUSIN TAKES NO SIDES, BUT I DO.

WE WON'T ABANDON YOU. I LOST MY FRIEND HERE. WE'LL HONOR HIM AND HELP YOU KEEP THE EMPIRE IN CHECK.

HE WAS ONE OF THE *BEST* OF US.

WHAT TOOK YOU SO *LONG?* I HAD TIME TO HAVE A HOT MEAL AND MAKE A DEAL WITH *MOULAR.*

YOU MADE IT! I *KNEW* YOU WOULD!

LOOK AT *THAT.* YOU'RE TURNING INTO SOME *DIPLOMAT!*

WELL, I LEARNED BY WATCHING THE *BEST LEADER* IN THE *REBELLION.*

THANK YOU, LUKE.

IT WILL BE GOOD TO KEEP TABS ON THIS PLANET NOW THAT WE KNOW THE EMPIRE HAS A STRONG INTEREST HERE.

MOULAR IS *CLOSE* TO WHATEVER THEY'RE DOING, BUT *NOT* SO CLOSE AS TO AROUSE *SUSPICION* IF WE NEED TO CONTACT HIM.

I CALL THIS MISSION A *SUCCESS.* LET'S GO REJOIN *THE FLEET.*

THE END

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STAR WARS™

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#3

CECIL CASTELLUCCI

ANDY DUGGAN

POE AND FINN...

FAST TRACK TO DANGER!

Disney

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ON SALE NOVEMBER 9TH